(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase of fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their phsyical, social psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered societies, Trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50 percent of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201 and Rs. 2500/-.

Finance corporation to help handicapped people

8498. SHRI YERRA NARAYNASWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a finance corporation to help handicapped people in the country;

(b) whether a large number of handicapped people are anxious to better their living standards;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to assist such people to start their own self employment projects; and

(d) the steps proposed to establish a Finance Corporation exclusively for handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Details are being worked out.

(d) Yes, Sir.

World bank assistance for welfare programmes

8499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "World Bank to fund welfare programmes" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 24.4 95;

(b) if so, the details of welfare programmes launched/propose to be launched by Government for which World Bank has agreed to give assistance;

(c) the total assistance World Bank has agreed to give;

(d) whether Government also propose to share in these welfare programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposed Ecodevelopment Project is likely to be implemented in 7 Wild life protection areas of India including 6 Project Tiger Reserves. This proposal aims to improve management of these project areas, involve local people in the Ecodevelopment to improve their living standards, and to develop research and build up institutions.

(c) to (e) The proposed project is likely to be co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA), with the balance cost to be borne by Government of India. The project is still in the preparatory stage and details will be known after appraisal is completed.

Steps to check child abuse cases

8500. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "child abuse cases come to light" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 27.4.95;

(b) whether the Child abuse cases are on the increase and no concrete steps have been taken by Government to check such cases;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On the basis of data received from the States and collated by the National Crime Records Bureau, it is seen that between 1990—1993, there has been a general trend of increasing crime against children i.e. 12.5 percent.

The Government have enacted important legislations to curb the crime against children the Child Marriage Restraint Act, the Employment of Children Act, 1938, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Young Persons (Harmful Publication) Act, 1956, and the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.

According to the Constitutional provisions laid down, police and public order are State subjects and registration, investigation, detection as well as prevention of crimes, including those against children is the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territories' Administrations.

Ministry of Home Affairs is regularly interacting with the State Governments regarding atrocities on women and children and other weaker sections of society. It also reviews the magnitude and measures taken by the various State Governments. Besides Ministry of Welfare and Department of Women and Child Development also take steps to contain the increasing incidents of crime against children.

वृद्ध व्यक्तियों के लिए पेंशन योजना

8501. **श्री रामजी लाल :** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार 65 वर्ष के प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को पेंशन देने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) उक्त पेंशन को देने के मानदंड सहित तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) सरकार राज्यों में उक्त योजना को किस प्रकार से कार्यान्वित करने का विचार रखती है ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) से (ग) वित्त मंत्री ने 1995-96 के अपने बजट भाषण में सामाजिक सहायता योजना की घोषणा की है जिसमें 65 वर्षों से अधिक आयु वाले व्यक्तियों, जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे हैं, के लिए न्यूनतम वृद्धावस्था पेंशन का एक घटक शामिल होगा। वित्त मंत्री द्वारा 1995-96 के बजट भाषण में की गई घोषणा के अनुसरण में ग्रामीण विकास सचिव की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति गठित की गई है। इस समिति से इसके गठन की तारीख से तीन महीने की अवधि के भीतर अंतिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत किए जाने की अपेक्षा की जाती है।